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**DECLARATION & POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My correct residence, post office address and citizenship are stated below next to my name.

I believe myself to be the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original and first joint inventor (if more than one name is listed below) of the subject matter which is disclosed and claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**"Apparatus and Method for Automatic Cluster Network Device Address Assignment"**

The specification of this subject matter:

- ☐ is attached hereto.
- x was filed on November 30, 1999;
- was assigned serial No. 09/452,284;
- which was amended on \_\_\_\_\_.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified patent application, including the claims, as amended by any amendment(s) referred to above. I do not know and do not believe that the claimed invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, and that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months (for a utility patent application) or six months (for a design patent application) prior to this application.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119 (a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)Priority Claimed

Number	Country	Month/Day/Year Filed	Yes	No
Number	Country	Month/Day/Year Filed	Yes	No
Number	Country	Month/Day/Year Filed	Yes	No

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

Application Number	Filing Date
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Application Number	Filing Date
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I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in these prior United States application(s) in the manner provided by 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

Application No.	Filing Date	Status (Issued, Pending, Abandoned)
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Application No.	Filing Date	Status (Issued, Pending, Abandoned)
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I hereby appoint Kenneth D'Alessandro, Registration No. 29,144; David B. Ritchie, Registration No. 31,562; Marc S. Hanish, Registration No. 42,626; John P. Schaub, Registration No. 42,125; Gerhard W. Thielman, Registration No. 43,186; Reynaldo C. Barceló, Registration No. 42,290; Lee M. Pederson, Registration No. 38,269; and Nathan R. Rieth, Registration No. 44,302 as attorneys of record with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and certifies that it is the assignee of the entire right, title and interest in the patent application identified above by virtue of an assignment, a copy of which is attached, from the inventor(s) of the patent application identified above.

Please send all correspondence and direct all telephone calls to:

David B. Ritchie  
D'Alessandro & Ritchie  
P.O. Box 640640  
San Jose, CA 95164-0640  
Telephone (408) 441-1100

I, the undersigned, declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing therefrom.

FULL NAME OF INVENTOR 1	FIRST Name	MIDDLE Initial(s)	LAST Name	
	Murali		Duvvury	
RESIDENCE AND CITY	State or Foreign Country	Country of Citizenship		
CITIZENSHIP	San Jose	California	United States of America	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS	Number and Street	City	State or Country	Zip Code
	170 West Tasman Drive	San Jose	California	95134

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made upon information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

	11/11/2000
Signature of Inventor 1	Date

**37 C.F.R. §1.56****Duty to disclose information material to patentability**

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) Prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) The closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
  - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
  - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

- (1) Each inventor named in the application;
- (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

(d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.

# ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, I, Murali Duvvury, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at 170 West Tasman Drive, San Jose, California 95134-1706, have invented a "Apparatus and Method for Automatic Cluster Network Device Address Assignment" for which we have executed application papers for a U.S. patent thereon which was filed on November 30, 1999, serial no. 09/452,284; and

WHEREAS, Cisco Technology, Inc., a California corporation, having a place of business at 170 West Tasman Drive, San Jose, California 95134-1706, is desirous of acquiring the exclusive right, title and interest in and to said invention and in and to the Letters Patent to be granted and issued therefor in the United States of America and its territories and possessions, and all countries foreign thereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, for a valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I, Murali Duvvury, do sell, assign, transfer and set over unto the said Cisco Technology, Inc., its successors and assigns, the full and exclusive right, title and interest in and to said invention, and in and to any and all Letters Patent to be granted and issued therefor, not only for, to and in the United States of America, its territories and possessions, but also for, to and in all other countries including all priority rights under the International Convention; and I hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue said Letters Patent to said Cisco Technology, Inc., its successors and assigns, in accordance with this Assignment.

WITNESS MY HAND at SAN JOSE, California, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY, ~~1999~~ 2000

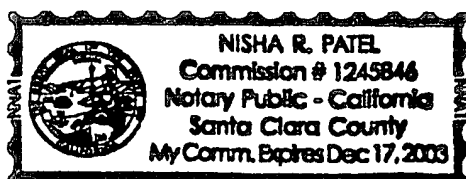
Murali Duvvury  
Murali Duvvury

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF Santa Clara ) ss.

On this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, ~~1999~~ 2000, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Murali Duvvury, ~~personally known to me~~ (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person/s whose name is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacities, and that by his/her/their signature/s on the instrument the person/s or the entity upon behalf of which the person/s acted, executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Nisha R. Patel



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